

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Reza Savari on 3/3/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

In claim 1, line 25, insert "with one or more vertically running cutting webs" between "a gripping surface" and "effective to hold the lid"

Cancel claim 3.

In claim 4, delete "claim 3" in line 1 and insert "claim 1"

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record is Marino (US 6132684) in view of Besnier (US 5533407), and further in view of Burt (US 4674340) as stated in the previous office action.

However, the claimed device for the opening and closing of the lids of the reaction vessels comprising the combination of: (a) the three-perforated-plate holding device; (b) the gripper including the blind bore and the at least two gripping jaws comprising the gripping surface with the vertically running cutting webs effective to hold

the lid, wherein the gripping jaws are arranged so that the lid is inserted between the gripping jaws and the lid is held by the gripping jaws through frictional contact while the lid is lifted off the reaction vessel; and (c) the handling arm comprising at one end the rotating mechanism including the rotatably driven pin that is fixed in the blind bore of the gripper and rotates the gripper with the inserted lid clockwise/counterclockwise with respect to the longitudinal axis the reaction vessels, is not rendered obvious over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shogo Sasaki whose telephone number is (571)270-7071. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 10:00am-6:30pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS /Jill Warden/
3/7/2011 Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1773